



CSEES

The Center for Slavic & East European Studies

HIV/AIDS in Russia

What is HIV/AIDS?

- HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
 - attacks the immune system
 - rapid mutation
 - leads to AIDS
- AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
 - T cells reach low levels
 - prone to severe diseases and infections
- No cure
 - antiretroviral drug treatment (ARV)

HIV/AIDS (cont)

- Means of Infection
 - unprotected sex
 - contact with infected person's blood
 - mother to child
 - blood transfusions
 - injecting drugs
- Not possible to be infected through
 - insect/ animal bites
 - touching, hugging, or shaking hands
 - toilet seats

Beginnings in USSR

- Late arrival to USSR
- First reported case→ June 1986
 - 14 year old girl through blood transfusion
 - records disappeared
- First official case→ March 1, 1987
 - military translator in Africa
- Disinformation campaign
 - virus created by Americans
- Collapse of Communism

HIV/AIDS Today

- СПИД
- Reported cases→ 370,000
- Actual cases approximately 1.5 million
- 2/3 of cases in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- 80% of infected people under 30
- 2006→ 44% new infections in women

Affected Populations

- Intravenous drug users (IDUs)
- Sex workers
- Sexual partners of risk groups
- Prisoners
- Men who have sex with men

Intravenous Drug Users

- 1.5 to 3 million
 - 1% to 2% of population
 - 12% of IDUs are HIV positive
- Mostly male
- 65% of new cases in 2007
- 83% of all infected people
- Significance of trend

Sex workers

- Overlap with drug use and sex workers
- Risky sexual behaviors
 - multiple partners
 - low contraception use
- 36% identify how HIV/ AIDS spread

Prisoners

- 2006 to 2007→ 10% of new infections in prison populations
- 5% of prison population infected
- Greater likelihood of HIV/AIDS among IDUs in prisons

MSM

- Less than 1% of newly registered cases in 2006
- Believed to be thriving, but underreported
- Low condom usage and other significant risk-taking behavior
- Largely separate from IDU community

Prevention

- Needle exchanges programs
 - 69 in 2005
 - government funded dropped from 15 in 2006 to 3 in 2007
 - encounters with law enforcement
- \$7.75m of \$289m in state funds allocated to prevention
- Substitution therapy does not exist
- "Cure or failure to cure"
- Sexual behavior counseling to drug users

Attitudes

- Western disease, western problem
- Stigma attached to IDUs, sex workers, and MSM
- Ignorance of basic facts about the disease
 - medical personnel
 - teachers and school officials
- Not enough people have died